

1911 Census records to go public

Registrar General will release 100-year old personal records this April

The Registrar General for Scotland today announced the date on which millions of personal records collected during the 1911 census will be published.

On April 5, 2011, the General Register Office for Scotland will release details collected from more than 4.7 million Scots – marking a century since the data was first gathered.

The records will include the name, address, age, occupation, birthplace and marital status of everyone counted in the 1911 census, as well as details about their children. For the first time, the census data will be presented in full colour rather than black and white.

The 1911 census was the last population survey carried out before the First World War and will feature for the last time, the names of many Scots who later died in service or left the country for overseas.

The release of the data will take place just nine days after Scots take part in the 2011 census on March 27.

Duncan Macniven, Registrar General for Scotland, said:

“This Spring sees both the release of the 1911 census data and the taking of the 2011 census. Interest in genealogy is fast-growing and ancestral tourism is important to the Scottish economy. So it is wonderful to know that our carefully-preserved records, kept confidential for 100 years, will make it easier for people to trace their family history and get an insight into how their ancestors lived in 1911.”

Background

The census is Scotland's biggest population survey. It asks the same questions of the entire population, the responses to which are used to build a reliable picture of the characteristics of people and households. The data is kept confidential for 100 years and is used to inform how public services should be targeted.

The 2011 census takes place on Sunday March 27.

More information is available online at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.

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